
A protest by British oil refinery workers about jobs lost to Italian and Portuguese rivals has spread to other industrial plants. Strikers say foreigners are taking much-needed British jobs. Here's Mike Sanders of our Europe desk:

Workers at Britain's third largest **oil refinery**, Lindsey in Lincolnshire in northern England, are **picketing** the plant **for the third day running**. Supporters have arrived from elsewhere and the protest has **spread to** steel plants on Teeside further north, the Grangemouth refinery in Scotland and a power station in Wales.

The Lindsey refinery's owner, the French firm Total, says its decision **to hire** an Italian firm to build a multi-million-dollar **extension** won't **entail redundancies** for British workers.

Italians to be housed on **barges** nearby may have **to run the gauntlet** of pickets.

Mike Sanders, BBC

Vocabulary and definitions

oil refinery	an industrial site where oil is processed and purified
picketing	protesting outside a building to prevent other workers from going inside (particularly when they have a disagreement with their employers)
for the third day running	for three consecutive days; for three days that come one after another
spread to	reached, affected (more industrial plants)
to hire	here, to give work to
extension	here, a new building next to the already existing one that will make the plant bigger
entail redundancies	result in/lead to job losses
barges	a barge is a long flat-bottomed boat normally used for transporting goods
to run the gauntlet	to have to deal with a lot of people who are against you

More on this story: http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/7859968.stm

Read and listen to the story and the vocabulary online:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/newsenglish/witn/2009/01/090130_uk_refinery.shtml